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Subject: Happy Independence Day!
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MR

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**MICHELE
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*Secretary of State
State of Arizona*



Happy Independence Day!

For the last 239 years, our country pauses to celebrate July 4th as the day the Continental Congress formally declared our independence in Philadelphia.

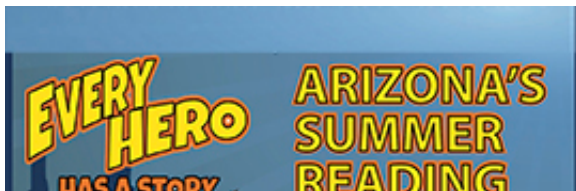
For so many people, it is a day to embrace their patriotism and proudly display the most recognizable symbol of freedom around the world. The flag of the United States.

The American Flag has long exemplified the spirit of those who lost their lives in battle, as well as those who fought valiantly and survived. It stands for all our ancestors who worked, saved and sacrificed at home to raise their families in such a strong, free and prosperous land.

It stands for the freedom that so many other countries in the world are just now beginning to experience. It stands for us and, heaven permit, it will fly for our children and our children's children in a land still strong and free.

Take a moment this weekend and reflect on the words of former Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes: "One Flag, one land, one heart, one hand, one nation, evermore!"

Michele





State Library and United Blood Services team up for summer

United Blood Services and the Secretary of State's office are teaming up to spread the word about summer reading programs throughout the state and to encourage blood donations.

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Memorial tribute to Granite Mountain Hotshots preserved online

In remembrance of the Granite Mountain Hotshots who tragically died two years ago, the Arizona Memory Project, supported by our office created a tribute to the 19 brave men who perished in Yarnell on June 30, 2013.

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